

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for permitting offline playback of a content file on a user  
2 computing device upon offline verification of the terms of a license for authorizing the  
3 playback of the content file, the method comprising:

4                         identifying the license by using one or more information fields within  
5 header;

6                         verifying the terms of the license locally on the user computing device  
7 while the user is offline;

8                         retrieving from the license, a session key for decrypting the content file;

9                         retrieving from the license, a segment which is part of the content file;

10                        decrypting the content file using the session key to permit playback of the  
11 content file for a single session; and

12                        combining the segment with the content file to permit playback of the  
13 content file.

1                   2.       The method of claim 1 further comprising

2                         receiving the content file and the license from one or more server  
3 computing systems.

1                   3.       The method of claim 2 further comprising

2                         separating the segment from the content file prior to the step of receiving  
3 the content file and the license.

1                   4.       The method of claim 2 further comprising

2                         combining the segment with the license prior to the step of receiving the  
3 content file and the license.

1                   5.       The method of claim 2 further comprising

2                         binding the license to the user computing device so that the content file is  
3 playable only on the user computing device prior to the step of receiving the content file  
4 and the license.

1                   6.       The method of claim 1 further comprising

2                         substituting the segment with the header in the content file prior to the step  
3 of receiving the content file and the license.

1                   7.       A method for permitting offline license verification, and for

2 enabling playback of a content file on a user computing device, the method comprising:

3 receiving the content file from a computing system communicatively  
4 coupled to the user computing device;  
5 receiving the license from a computing system communicatively coupled  
6 to the user computing device;  
7 optionally, storing both the content file and license within the user  
8 computing device to enable future playback of the content file;  
9 retrieving the content file having a header containing one or more  
10 information fields;  
11 identifying the license by using the one or more information fields within  
12 header;  
13 verifying the terms of the license locally on the user computing device  
14 while the user is offline;  
15 retrieving from the license, a session key for decrypting the content file;  
16 retrieving from the license, a segment which is part of the content file;  
17 decrypting the content file using the session key to permit playback for a  
18 single session; and  
19 combining the segment with the content file to permit playback.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising  
2 separating the first segment from the content file prior to the step of  
3 receiving the content file from a computing system.

1 9. The method of claim 7 further comprising  
2 combining the first segment with the license prior to the step of receiving  
3 the license from a computing system.

1 10. A system for managing rights to a content file within a computer  
2 network, and to permit offline verification of a license for authorizing playback the  
3 content file offline, the system comprising:  
4 a key for decrypting the content file;  
5 a first content portion which is part of the content file;  
6 a license for decrypting the content file, the license containing both the  
7 key and the first content portion;  
8 a first computer system for generating the content file, the first computer  
9 system further comprising,



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15 software containing one or more instructions for identifying the  
16 license using the header;

17 software containing one or more instructions for verifying the  
18 terms of the license locally on the second computer system while the user is offline;

19 software containing one or more instructions for decrypting the  
20 content file using the key, to permit playback of the content file while the user is offline;  
21 and

22 software containing one or more instructions for combining the  
23 first content portion with the content file to permit playback of the content file.

1 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the header contains one or more  
2 information fields for identifying the license.

1 13. The system of claim 11 wherein the first computer system has  
2 software containing one of more instructions for creating the header.

1 14. The system of claim 11 wherein the first computer system has  
2 software containing one or more instructions for generating the key.